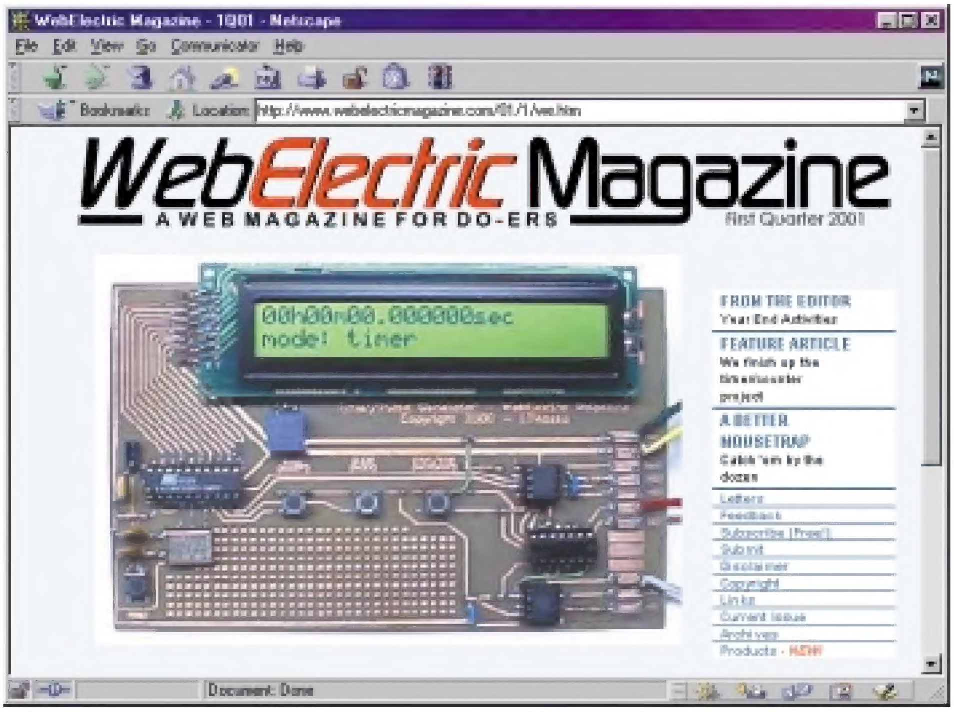
Circuits for home construction

Circuit diagrams galore

One great advantage of the Internet is rapid availability of information you may need at any moment. If you want to build an electronic circuit for a specific application, you're likely to find a suitable schematic on the Internet. And it's especially easy if you bookmark the websites mentioned in this article.



In the May 1998 instalment of 'Electronics Online' we discussed electronics circuit collections on the Internet. However, that is almost three years ago, a very long time in Internet terms. The subject remains popular, however, so we thought that an update was due.

Imageering on-line magazine [1] is an electronic magazine (e-zine) run by electronics engineer David Johnson. Apart from masses of electronics-related stuff, this website also has a 'hobby' corner neatly divided into hobby schematics, ideas, suggestions and tips on electronics. David is a devoted home brewer (of electronics, of course) and has designed many circuits during his 30-year career. A number of his circuits have made it to publication in the electronics press. The hobby corner contains a large number of circuit diagrams, while the ideas section contains more than 100 descriptions of circuits that have not been (completely) realised. Anyone is free to contribute to the best of his/her ability!

Web-Electric Magazine [2] is an electronics webzine totally dedicated to home brewers. Each quarter, a new circuit appears on this website and is discussed in detail. As we write this, the subject is a timer/pulse generator. This website also contains an archive from which circuits published over the last three years may be retrieved. The circuit descriptions are extensive and neatly laid out, allowing even beginners to get started.

4QD [3] is a company involved in the design and production of speed controllers for small electromotors. Their website hosts an electronics 'club' (4QD-TEC) which is home to a fair amount of circuits. Although the club is marked by a membership fee, there is a freely accessible archive of electronic circuits. Most circuits found here are small, but then again that may be just what you were after in the first place.

Tony's Website [4] published by Tony van Roon of Guelph University, Ontario, Canada, also contains two pages of circuits for DIY construction. The range is from simple flashing circuits to (illegal) FM transmitters.

The Circuit Archive [5] at the University of Washington is still highly recommended. The available schematics are neatly arranged by subject. The quality of the schematics differs widely, mainly because there are many links taking you to other

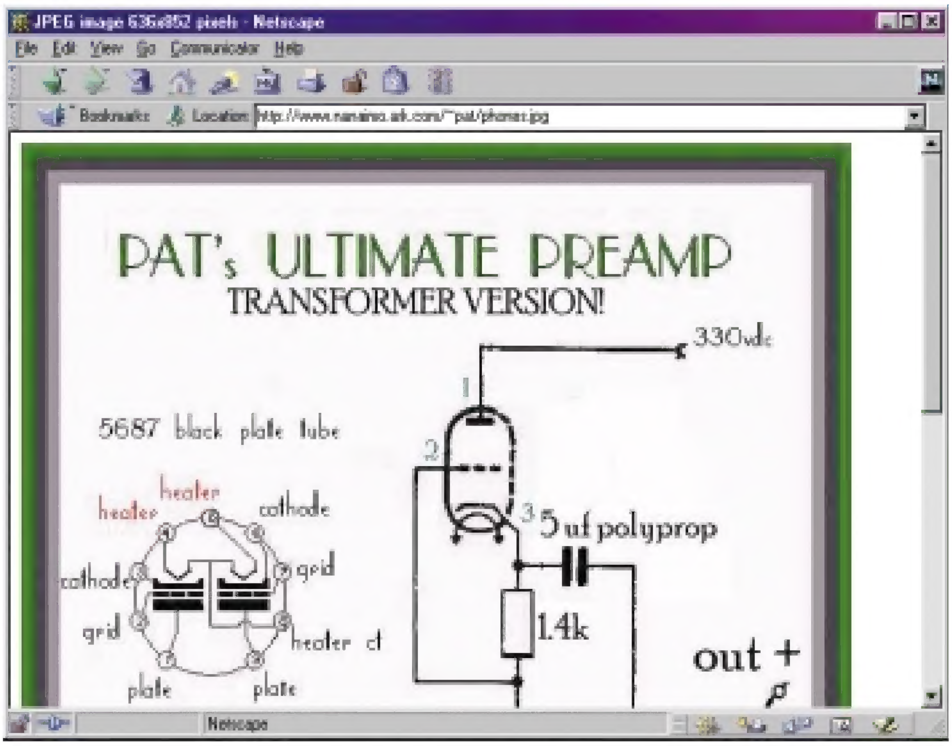
Internet addresses. Besides those circuit diagrams, this website also contains many links to component datasheets and other electronics-related stuff.

Jack Orman's **Digital Music Zone [6]** contains circuit diagrams of music-related electronics ('electrophonics') including a distortion unit, a wah-wah filter, a phaser and a flanger. We also found circuits to build analogue and digital delays.

Pat's Tube & Recording Schematics [7] is an interesting address for everyone involved in the design and construction of valve (tube) amplifiers. Although Pat claims that more than 4000 schematics may be found on his site, that number should taken to mean including all hyperlinks to other websites. Nonetheless, Pat's pages contain a number of nice designs, including a headphone amplifier and a microphone preamplifier.

Aaron Cake [8] is another fervent electronics enthusiast. In addition to spending time on his hobby, Aaron also puts a lot of time and effort in the general design of his website. We found a rather long list of circuit diagrams. Each of these is complete with a parts list, a brief description and, in many cases, a PCB layout.

The Electronic Circuits Application Garage [9] is a webpage run by Seiichi Inoue from Japan.


http://www.nanaimo.ark.com/~pat/phones.jpg

Besides a number of electronics-related subjects (including a datasheet collection and a PIC design guide) the Garage contains some fully worked out projects like an ultrasonic distance meter and a 4-channel oscilloscope.

We could go on listing more 'circuit' websites, but ten of these ought to be enough this month! Number 10, then, is for **Jordan's RF Web Site [10]**. As indicated by the title, this is mostly on radio-related (RF) designs. Some 25 designs are available including dividers, oscillators, RF amplifiers and measurement instruments. Jordan's main project is an RF tracking generator from 100 kHz to 1 GHz. This instrument is described in great detail.

Now, if this month's Elektor Electronics did not give you enough inspiration, you know you can start looking 'elsewhere'.

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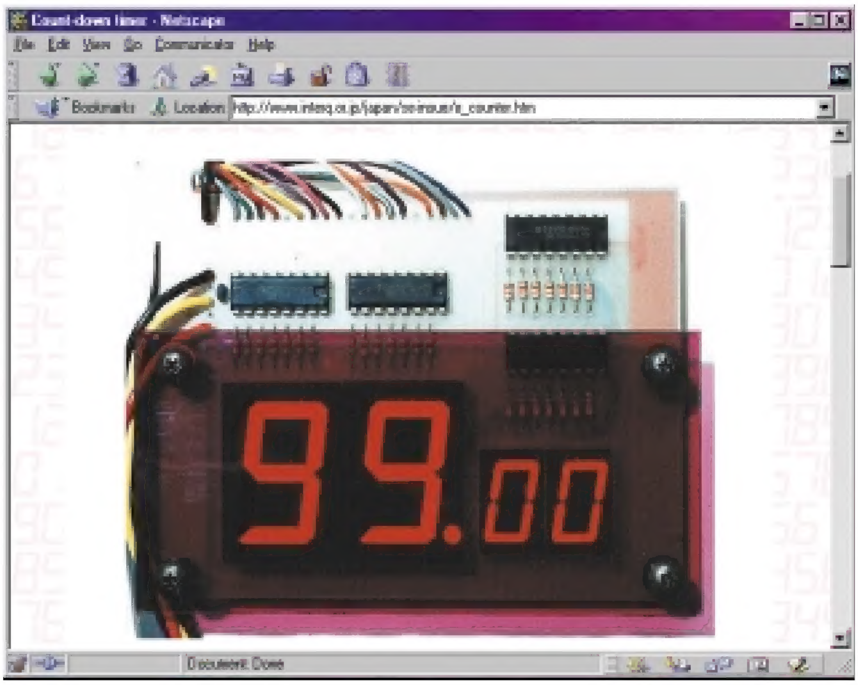
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[1] Imagineering on-line magazine:
www.imagineeringezine.com/

[2] Web-Electric Magazine:
www.webelectricmagazine.com/01/1/we.htm

[3] 4QD-TEC:
www.4qd.co.uk/ccts/index.html

[4] Tony's website:
www.uoguelph.ca/~ antoon/circ/circuits.htm

[5] Circuits Archive at Washington University:
www.ee.washington.edu/circuit_archive/circuits/

[6] Digital Music Zone:
http://members.aol.com/jorman/schem.html

[7] Pat's Tube & Recording Schematics:
www.nanaimo.ark.com/~ pat/index.htm

[8] Circuits Page, Aaron Cake:
www.aaroncake.net/electronics/index.html

[9] Electronic Circuits Application Garage:
www.interq.or.jp/japan/se-inoue/e_cktsmpl.htm

[10] Jordan's RF Web Site:
www.geocities.com/jordan30bg/index.html